

REMARKS

Claims 2-36 are currently pending in the application, as amended. Claims 2-9, 11, 17, and 21-34 have been allowed. Claim 35 has been rejected only under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and also has been objected to but has been indicated to be allowable over the prior art. Claim 36 has been objected to but indicated to be allowable. Claims 10 and 12-16 and 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 251.

CLAIMS

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 35 and 36 because of informalities. Specifically, the Examiner noted that --the-- should be inserted before "coupler pocket" in both claims 35 and 36. Applicant has amended both claims 35 and 36 to implement the Examiner's proposed changes. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections of claims 35 and 36.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has suggested that changing the dependency of this claim from claim 9 to claim 10 should correct this problem. Applicant agrees with the Examiner with respect to claim 35. To that end, Applicant has amended claim 35 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 10 so as to be rewritten in independent form due to the fact that the Examiner rejected claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, also be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-9, 11, 17, and 21-34 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that: (1) no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment; (2) the Amendment resolves all formal issues and only formal issues raised by the Examiner in the previous Office Action; (3) the subject matter of the Amendment already has been included in the Examiner's search and therefore does not require the Examiner to perform further searching; (4) the Amendment places the application in better condition for appeal; and (5) the Amendment does not result in a net addition of claims to the application. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the Amendment After Final Rejection be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 116 and MPEP 714.13 and that claims 35 and 36 be allowed.

The Examiner is advised that the continued rejection of claims 10, 12-16 and 18-20 in being appealed and that Applicant's representative would appreciate telephonic notification of the disposition of this Amendment for preparing the appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Date)

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